

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
QUINCY, CA  
MARCH 21, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES  
QUESTIONS

1. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 7, "Program Areas": Are fire protection and fuel reduction covered under forest health?**
2. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 7, "Cultural and Physical Resources": Why use physical rather than "natural?"
3. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 13, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, "Consult with a public water system": What does that mean or entail?**
4. **Is the development of partnerships specifically promoted? Could SNC funds be married up with federal funds?**
5. **Could SNC be a broker for water credits?**
6. Regarding Program Guidelines, pages 16-18, "Project Evaluation": Who can ask for funds?

PROGRAM GUIDELINES  
COMMENTS

1. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 4, "Program Goals", bullet five: Examples of the benefits Californians receive from the Sierra Nevada could be listed, such as carbon sequestration, water quality, flood management, water supply, etc. SNC should broaden the message of benefits.**
2. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 5, "Administration": Ensure that the focus is on using local experts, knowledge, etc. The expectation is for SNC to add value, but rely heavily on local communities.**
3. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 6, "Program Areas": Fishing and hunting are not mentioned and they are a large part of the economy here.**
4. **Tourism examples need to include trails and it would also be nice to have endowments for trails maintenance. This is a big issue.** Regarding basic tourism infrastructure, sometimes restrooms are absolutely needed. Would like to see regional trails, such as cross-county trails, developed. Support for state recreational facilities also needs to be provided.
5. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 7, "Physical, Cultural, and Living Resources": The program area should have specific linkage to wildfire prevention goals. Also, there is no mention of botanical resources, which is important. Improving historic downtowns needs to be included too.**

6. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 8, "Working Landscapes": Tenure is raised in the Grant Guidelines. Be careful to describe to applicants how tenure affects these types of projects. If the State is buying a permanent interest in land, that needs to be addressed.
7. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 8, first set of bullets, final bullet, "Working Landscapes": Energy is not the only way to utilize biomass. Add "and other uses" at the end of this line.
8. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 8, "Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters": Add a bullet for developing and funding carbon sequestration programs for forest, meadows, soils, etc. We should have current carbon inventories for those. There should also be a program for facilitating economic improvements that help prevent natural disasters.
9. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 9, "Protect and Improve Water and Air Quality", final sub-bullet about wastewater treatment systems: Many communities need wastewater treatment systems. Who would qualify for funding there? The phrase "ability to treat wastewater" in the explanatory paragraph preceding the bulleted list of examples may need clarification regarding SNC's funding abilities in this area.
10. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 10, 1<sup>st</sup> sub-bullet, "Air Quality": Add "such as allowing fuel chipping" as an alternative to open burning.
11. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 10, "Public Use and Enjoyment of Public Lands": SNC should assist land managers in the development of financial resources for public lands maintenance. This should be in the guidelines. For example: Forest fuels reduction is "maintenance". This also links back to the goal of educating Californians about the benefits of the Sierra.
12. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 18, "Performance Standards": Make sure to include local ideas and input in developing these. There should be public involvement.
13. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 11, "Public Use and Enjoyment of Public Lands": The second sub-bullet on this page includes environmental documents; glad to see that. This and planning should be fundable under other program areas too. Regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> sub-bullet: Explain "opportunities for sustainable public use and enjoyment."
14. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 12, "Available Tools, Methods, and Resources": The Grant Guidelines reflect a lack of understanding of entities who would implement grants. SNC should consider adding a tool for facilitation and support in dealing with legislators/government for Sierra communities who are implementing SNC goals.
15. Regarding Program Guidelines, page 12, "Available Tools, Methods and Resources": Add a bullet to allow for money advances to implementing organizations. Otherwise they need to borrow money at banks (two comments on this topic).

16. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 13, “K. Receipt of Gifts”: “Interest in real or personal property” doesn’t imply that all projects require an interest in property, but the grant package seems to say that specifically. Does every project require an interest in property?**
17. **I’m a member of the Sierra County Historical Society, which operates the Kentucky Mine. Empire Mine is another example of mining tourism. Surprised “mining” is not mentioned in tourism; it should be added. Is it already covered in the historical and cultural resources area?**
18. **When funding prescribed burning are you buying in to a liability problem? How about when a town burns down? Liability is an issue that should be clearly defined.**

### GRANT GUIDELINES QUESTIONS

1. How much discretion did you have in developing the Grant Guidelines? And how much was set in stone?
2. Regarding the Grant Guidelines, is there money available for capacity-building?
3. Does SNC have to have equitable distribution of \$17 million annually over all twenty-two counties?
4. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 6, “Land Tenure”: Does the site improvement project requirement language have some flexibility?
5. Regarding historic buildings and cultural/archaeological sites: What kind of connection are you looking for between historical sites and water issues?
6. **Can you define “region-wide significance?”**

### GRANT GUIDELINES COMMENTS

1. **Explain the Grant Guidelines connection to program areas, such as tourism, which may not have direct ties to land.**
2. The rest of Prop. 84 ties everything to Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs). You’re not stuck only dealing with applicants who are part of the IRWMPs?
3. Regarding Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) and Competitive Grants: SOGs are specifically \$1 million allocations to each subregion; they are limited in what they can fund.
4. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 3, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet on “long-term management”: This has good language, leaves room for negotiation.
5. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 3, “Eligible Costs”: In regards to those costs that are not eligible, are those SNC requirements or Prop. 84 requirements? It doesn’t empower a group to say, “Do it out of your home on your own time.”**

6. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 3, "Eligible Costs": Due to not covering overhead, one organization could require a capacity-building grant and a project grant. This means a duplication of effort.**
7. Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 4, "Competitive Grants": Do the conditions under which grants will be funded under Prop. 84 all involve acquisition? It is not clear that there are two types of projects, acquisition and improvement.
8. **Regarding Grant Guidelines, page 6, "Land Tenure" and project agreements: Feel that watershed groups, Resource Conservation Districts, and land trusts are excluded here due to the definition of "adequate site control". These words would scare most landowners around here. Will provide suggested language, for example:**  
**- "Agreements where the applicant has adequate site control ~~for the purposes of the project~~ or a management agreement with owner(s) and appropriate agencies to assure completion of a project and sustaining the benefits of the project."**
9. **Other chapters of Prop. 84 include provisions to apply for the direct coordination of a project plus five percent for administration/overhead.**
10. Needs to be an adequate, yet flexible, agreement with the landowner.
11. Regarding SOGs and Competitive Grants: As a local entity it would be great to time them for maximum leverage with other State funds.

#### OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Are these funds over and above what other agencies might currently apply for? Is SNC bringing new money to the table?
2. SNC has been authorized \$54 million from Prop. 84. Is this a one-time shot or will the amount be split over a number of years? How many dollars will go out for grants? Some will be needed for administration.
3. SNC should have priorities instead of trying to be everything to everybody. We have to say, "These things are important."
4. Acknowledge SNC was formed due to problems in the Sierra. That's why it's here. I'm glad you are here.
5. Is the SNC issuing actual regulations thru the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) to spend Prop. 84 funds?
6. Have you looked at various Resource Allocation Council (RAC) Title 3 programs? Or how counties spend money on Title 2? These can help get the flavor of possible priorities. New Mexico's Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP found online at <http://www.southwestareagrants.org/nm/cfrp.php>) has novel elements to think about. Need to make sure to have conversations about priorities/grants that are done or in process.

7. A challenge in the Sierra Nevada is getting Southern California to invest in the watersheds. The SNC needs to convey to them that they'd get additional benefits if they did invest.
8. Under Prop. 84 there are other groups of funding categories that could fund historical preservation, just not through SNC. Other propositions may also have money, just not SNC.
9. What timelines are you looking at?
10. Are you going to develop a standardized grant application for people?

#### SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Maintenance
2. Tourism and recreation
  - Mining tourism
  - Trail development
  - Hunting and fishing
  - Tourism infrastructure
3. Botanical resources
4. Historical/cultural/archaeological resources
5. Reducing the risk of natural disasters
  - Wildfire prevention
  - Carbon sequestration
6. Regional economy
7. Water and air quality
  - Wastewater treatment
  - Fuel chipping
  - Water credits
8. Public use and enjoyment of public lands
9. Working landscapes
  - Land tenure
  - Biomass utilization